

# Link

March 2025



# SPA DAYS

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*Link* Magazine exists to be of service to the communities of Oakley, Deane, Newfound Malshanger and Wootton St. Lawrence. The sentiments expressed do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the editorial team. The editors take no responsibility for the accuracy of the contents of submissions.

With the exception of trade ads all other items for publication may be made free of charge. Please submit articles by the date given below for publication the month following. The *Link* editors reserve the right to decline or edit any contributions.

**Link** web-site [oakleylink.org.uk](http://oakleylink.org.uk)

Please e-mail copy to: [editor@oakleylink.org.uk](mailto:editor@oakleylink.org.uk)  
or post to 8 Caithness Close, Oakley, RG23 7NG

**Deadline for April 2025 issue: 10 March**

### 60 Years Ago in Oakley

**From Link, March 1965.** Oakley Tennis Club had arranged a beat dance for the teenage members, with dancing to the group 'The Men Friday'. The weather notes for January reported that snow had fallen on 7 days. Oakley and Deane WI were deciding which member would have the honour of attending a Garden Party at Buckingham Palace celebrating the WI's Golden Jubilee Year.

### 50 Years Ago in Oakley

**From Link, March 1965.** The Oakley and Wootton Community Care Scheme was fully operational. Volunteers were available to help with most domestic eventualities. St John's Centre Play Group had reached its second birthday and now had 25 children and 4 helpers at each session. There were plans to start another Playgroup in St Leonard's Centre. The choir of St Leonard's Church, with some extra voices, would sing Stainer's 'Crucifixion' on Maundy Thursday, with Mr Ryan Lee conducting and Miss E Norman as accompanist. *Chris Wassell*

**Front page:** *Snowdrops at Malshanger Green, February 2025*

## CONTENTS

Editorial .....	3
Village News .....	4,5,7
Feature: Hampshire County Council update.....	8
Fund Raising.....	10
Feature: Step by Step.....	10
Health Matters .....	13,14
Pause for Thought.....	14
Features: Age Concern; Steventon & Jane Austen.	15
Church News .....	16,19
Young Oakley .....	19,20,21
Feature: Hampshire Harmony .....	22
Conservation .....	25,26
Ladies' Societies.....	28
Local News.....	31,33,34
Feature: News from Jolly Olly's .....	35
Gardening .....	35
Freeads.....	35
Sport .....	36
Walking; Letters .....	36
Index of Advertisers .....	37
Information, Churches, Village Halls.....	38

## Oakley Community Care

**Supporting your needs for transport to medical appointments**

We offer transport by car to anyone in need, mainly for visits to doctors, hospital appointments and prescription collection. Wheel chair users must be able to transfer to the car unaided. Oakley Community Care is made up of friendly volunteers who are unpaid, however a donation by the passenger to cover fuel and other costs is appreciated.

*New volunteer drivers always welcome*

**Please give us a call, we may be able to make life easier for you.**

**07376 574412**

Oakley Community Care is a Registered Charity (No. 1141330)

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# Village



## Oakley Village Show Goes Potty!

As you know, we like to keep a healthy mix of traditional and new in the show so, this year, we are encouraging you to take part in a new challenge. For many years, we have had classes for best front garden or best container but, to encourage you to take part, we are going to provide you with a free 7.5 litre pot; all you have to do is to make it look horticulturally beautiful! Fill it with whatever plants you like and arrange them in your individual style and see what the judge makes of it!

We will give details in the schedule (out next month) but, basically, you will collect your pot, plant it up, and place it ready for judging w/b 14 July. There are 2 classes, one for local businesses and one for residents of Oakley, Deane and Malshanger, and you can have up to two entries that will be judged separately.

It would be great to see Oakley go to pot in the best possible way and, as it's 2025, we would love to see at least 25 pots brightening up our village.

So, get thinking and look out for a reminder and instructions in April's Link and the show schedule.

(And remember, craft, art, photography and writing classes are already available on the OCA website. [ocaoakley.org.uk](http://ocaoakley.org.uk))

*Ann Davis, on behalf of the show committee*

**TOPS**  
The Oakley Pantomime Society

Presents:  
**Murder Between the Lines**

Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup>. May 2025 8-00pm.  
Andover Road Village Hall

Can you read between the lines to discover who, why and when this dastardly crime was committed?

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# Village



## 2025 Event Dates

**Easter Egg Hunt**  
Friday 18 April Around the village

**VE Celebration Picnic**  
Monday 5 May Peter Houseman Field

**Front Garden Stalls**  
Saturday 21 June Around the village  
stall bookings open from 1 May

**Oakley Village Show**  
Sat 9 August Oakley Infant School

**Oakley & Deane Fireworks**  
Sunday 2 November Newfound



## OAKLEY KIDS EASTER EGG HUNT

Friday 18 April 2025  
10.30am-2.00pm

Just follow the clues around Oakley!

Download your answer sheet from [www.ocaoakley.org.uk](http://www.ocaoakley.org.uk) or pick up a sheet on the day from OCA table in Barley Mow car park

Claim your Easter treat from the OCA table in Barley Mow car park before 2.00pm on the day!

### Parish Council Coffee & Chat

Enjoy refreshments with other members of the community, or simply borrow a book and relax!

**Thursdays at 10:30am – 1.30pm**  
Newfound Sports Pavilion

Did you know we also have Parish Council office drop in hours?  
Wednesdays 09:30-12:30 – Newfound Pavilion  
Thursdays 10.30-1.30 – Newfound Pavilion

### Oakley Community Market

Working with the Barley Mow, the Oakley Community Market is launching with multiple events planned for this year.

If you would like to express interest in holding a stall during the year, please email [ocm@alexrowley.uk](mailto:ocm@alexrowley.uk) and we will be in touch.

### NEW! Hub dates for January to April 2025

Looking for a new activity to join, then here are three to choose from!  
We meet at the Methodist Chapel by the central pond in Oakley and we look forward to welcoming new members in the New Year.

**Sitting and Standing Keep Fit**  
2.00-3.30pm every Thursday re-starting 9 January

**Table Top Gardening**  
Monthly 2.00-3.30pm every 3rd Wednesday  
15 January, 19 February, 19 March, 16 April

**Flower Arranging**  
Monthly 2.00-3.30pm every 4th Monday  
20 January, 24 February, 24 March, 28 April (actually 5th Monday as 4th Easter Monday)

**All enquiries to 01256 782724**

### Coffee Morning Alternate Tuesdays

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# Village



## Report of the Parish Council

The parish council budget for 25/26 has now been agreed and set and has been submitted to Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council. Details of the precept and the budget are available on the parish council website.

We are currently in the process of updating the speed information device installed on the B3400 and are aware that it has not been working correctly for a little while. We are considering installing additional "SID" devices throughout the village, this is in response to the issues raised by residents regarding speeding in and around the village.

We are also in the process of investigating the continuing situation of flooding at the school car park and are liaising with HCC highways department to attempt to address these issues.

There is a vacancy within the parish council for an Assistant Clerk; if anyone is interested in this vacancy then please contact the Parish Clerk on 07983 500372 or email [clerk@oakleydeane-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@oakleydeane-pc.gov.uk).

Welcome packs for any new residents are available. If you are interested in receiving one of these please contact the Parish Clerk as above.

Please note a slight change to the Wednesday office hours. The drop-in office hours are:

Wednesdays 9:30 am to 12:30 pm (please confirm with Clerk before attending) at Newfound Pavilion.

Thursdays 10:30 am to 13:30 pm – Coffee & Chat, Newfound Pavilion.

However, if these dates are not suitable, please get in touch to arrange an appointment.

Monthly Parish Council meetings are held on the second Thursday of each month in Newfound Pavilion, unless otherwise advertised. All residents are more than welcome to attend.

Please note a change to the planning meeting days as these have now been moved from Thursday to Tuesday. The planning meetings will be scheduled on the first and third Tuesdays of each month. The third Tuesday of the month meeting will be provisional based upon the number of applications and decisions received but the first Tuesday will be definite. Dates of the meetings will be published on our website along with the noticeboards and social media as usual.

*Steve Woodley – Deputy Parish Clerk,  
[www.oakleydeane-pc.gov.uk](http://www.oakleydeane-pc.gov.uk), [clerk@oakleydeane-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@oakleydeane-pc.gov.uk) / 07983 500372*

## Planning Application and Decisions, February Applications

25/00098/HSE Creation of an outbuilding and the installation of timber fences above an existing brick retaining wall and timber sleeper wall. 60 Hill Road



25/00198/HSE Erection of a single storey rear extension and the conversion of the integral single garage into habitable accommodation. Formation of a ramped access to the main front entrance with an extended covered porch. 8

The Vale

25/00171/HSE Conversion of existing single garage to habitable accommodation and the erection of a single storey side extension. 6 Blackwater Close

25/00204/FUL Change of window to French doors on South Elevation from a sitting room within the care home to allow for direct access to the courtyard. Oak Lodge Nursing Home, Oakley Hall

## Decisions

T/00548/24/TPO T1 - Corsican Pine: prune and remove major deadwood. T2 - Hawthorn - reduce to previous pruning 26 Sycamore Tree Road – Granted

24/02381/HSE Erection of extension to existing garage High Barn, 2 Bulls Bushes Farm – Granted

24/02369/HSE Erection of single storey side extension and front porch. First floor side extension and double storey rear extension, new solid roof to existing conservatory and fenestration changes to suit. 42A Hill Road – Granted

T/00629/24/TCA T1 Sycamore. Crown lift to a maximum 3m from ground level removing tertiary growth no larger than 50mm diameter. Prune to give 1m clearance from garage roof. Garden View, 1 Rectory Road – Granted

24/02853/HSE Demolition of garage block and erection of a two-storey side extension, single storey rear extension, single storey front extension and the addition of fenestration alterations and additions. 16 Blackwater Close – Granted

## East Oakley Village Hall (the Green Hut), Hill Road, Oakley

### Notice of Closure for 4 weeks

The hall will be closed for 4 weeks from Thursday 20 February and, if all goes to plan, we hope it will re-open on Saturday 22 March. This closure is so the toilets and kitchen can be refurbished. Look out for news of an open morning or afternoon in the future so you can see the improvements to the hall.

*East Oakley Village Hall committee,  
[treasurer@oakleygreenhut.co.uk](mailto:treasurer@oakleygreenhut.co.uk)*

## Himalayan Hatha Yoga with Rowan

Mondays 6 -7pm

Oakley infants school hall.

All bookings and information via







## **Hampshire County Councillor Update Candovers Oakley and Overton Division Hampshire County Council to charge utility companies for disruptive roadworks**

HCC has unveiled plans for a new disruption charge scheme aimed at reducing delays on the county's busiest roads during peak times. This initiative, designed to complement the existing permitting scheme, would encourage companies and agencies to better plan their work, operate outside peak hours, and shorten the duration of their projects.

### **Reporting Highway Problems**

Links to report road issues are here:

Potholes: [hants.gov.uk/transport/highways/report-a-problem/potholes](https://hants.gov.uk/transport/highways/report-a-problem/potholes)

Tree/hedge problems: [hants.gov.uk/transport/highways/report-a-problem/treehedge](https://hants.gov.uk/transport/highways/report-a-problem/treehedge)

Flooding/drainage issues: [hants.gov.uk/transport/highways/report-a-problem/flooding](https://hants.gov.uk/transport/highways/report-a-problem/flooding)

Pavement problems: [hants.gov.uk/transport/highways/report-a-problem/paving](https://hants.gov.uk/transport/highways/report-a-problem/paving)

Broken or missing signs: [hants.gov.uk/transport/highways/report-a-problem/brokensigns](https://hants.gov.uk/transport/highways/report-a-problem/brokensigns)

Faulty streetlights: [hants.gov.uk/transport/highways/report-a-problem/streetlight](https://hants.gov.uk/transport/highways/report-a-problem/streetlight)

Faded or missing road markings: [hants.gov.uk/transport/highways/report-a-problem/road-markings](https://hants.gov.uk/transport/highways/report-a-problem/road-markings)

Problems with rights of way: [hants.gov.uk/landplanningandenvironment/rightsofway/reportaproblem](https://hants.gov.uk/landplanningandenvironment/rightsofway/reportaproblem)

When reporting an issue, you'll be sent a reference number. If you would like me to follow this up please forward that message to me and I will chase for you.

### **Major Investment in Special Needs Education for Next Academic Year**

One of the greatest pressures on Hampshire County Council's budget is the cost of the increasing number of school pupils with Special Education Needs. Therefore, we have announced exciting plans to transform specialist education at four primary schools, significantly boosting support for pupils with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) in Gosport, Eastleigh, and Basingstoke.

### **Join the Movement Towards a Smokefree Hampshire!**

Smoking remains a significant health challenge in Hampshire, with approximately 118,000 smokers contributing to an estimated £988 million in lost productivity and social and healthcare costs. To combat this, Hampshire County Council has set an ambitious goal: to become a Smokefree County by 2030. Smokefree Hampshire offers free, personalised support tailored to your needs, increasing your chances of quitting successfully. Inspired to Quit?

Text I QUIT to 66777 for your free quit kit.

### **Helping Hampshire Children get Active and Healthy**

To help tackle childhood obesity and support children in Hampshire to get active and stay healthy, the County Council is expanding its health and wellbeing programmes for children and families, working closely with district and boroughs, as well as local community organisations

### **Hampshire County Council Fast-Track for Devolution Priority Programme**

Hampshire County Council has been accepted onto the Government's fast-track Devolution Priority Programme (DPP) – marking a significant milestone in the journey towards devolution for Hampshire and the wider area. Earlier this month Hampshire County Council, together with Southampton and Portsmouth City Councils and Isle of Wight Council put in a 'Hampshire and the Solent' devolution bid to central Government which seeks to bring power and money from Westminster and provide greater local control over vital areas such as education, transport, and health services for Hampshire residents – giving people more power to shape the things that are important to them and provide robust local accountability.

As part of devolution, a Mayor would be elected in the spring of 2026 to head up a new Combined Authority across the wider region of Hampshire County Council, Isle of Wight Council, Portsmouth City Council and Southampton City Council, in line with the Authorities' expression of interest submitted to the Deputy Prime Minister last summer. As well as promoting the interests of the wider region to central Government, the Mayor would work together with local council leaders, to make decisions about how to allocate regional funding. Greater collaboration across boundaries would be particularly effective in areas such as transport, skills and employment support, housing and planning, and tackling climate change.

### **Postponement of May's Election**

Due to selection for the Devolution Priority Programme, the Government has also determined that the County Council's elections, originally scheduled for May this year, should be postponed for 12 months as an essential step to enable the Council to give necessary focus to preparing for devolution and local government reorganisation, and allow for a Mayor to be elected in 2026 so the benefits of devolution to local communities can be delivered as swiftly as possible. Any by-elections, if required during this period, would continue to go ahead as normal. Reorganisation would then be expected to be in place by either April 2027 or April 2028.



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## Step by Step

### Could Oakley Residents Help Young People in Need of a Safe Place to Stay?

The Oakley community has always supported those in need, and now residents have the opportunity to make a life-changing difference to young people facing homelessness. With housing pressures increasing, many young people—particularly care leavers—struggle to find a safe and stable home.

Step by Step, a local youth charity, runs Supported Lodgings, which carefully matches young people aged 16-21 with hosts who can offer a stable home while they work towards independence. The scheme isn't about parenting—it's about offering a safe and supportive space. Hosts receive full training, ongoing support, and an allowance, ensuring they feel equipped and valued.

For Alice, a host with Step by Step, the experience has been deeply rewarding:

*"I had space in my home and missed the energy of a busy house. Becoming a host was one of the most rewarding things I've done. It's not about being a parent—it's about offering guidance, stability, and a place to call home."*

Young people like Sophie\*, 18, know just how much this support matters:

*"Before this, I had nowhere to go. My host gave me a place to stay and the encouragement I needed to*

*do my A-levels and believe in myself again."*

Step by Step is keen to hear from anyone in Oakley and the surrounding areas who would consider opening their home to a young person in need. For those unable to host, community donations help fund essential services like counselling and life skills training, which give young people the confidence to build a brighter future.

To learn more, visit [stepbystep.org.uk/basing-heroes](http://stepbystep.org.uk/basing-heroes). By opening their doors, local residents could offer more than just a home—they could provide hope for the future.

\*name changed



**ANNIE'S Oakley Charity Shop**

**18 Meon Road, Oakley, RG23 7AL**

**Registered charity 1063036 – Annie's Orphans.**

**Monday to Saturday 10 am – 4 pm**

**MARCH 2025 at Annie's Oakley**

**We have some ski wear in stock.**

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**World book day costumes.**

**Mother's Day gifts.**

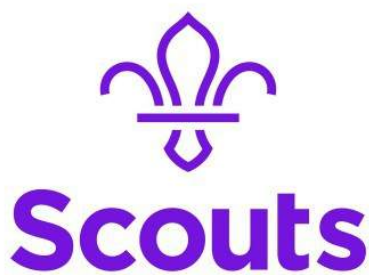
**Easter goods in stock.**

**Our £1 rail is updated every week**

**Keep an eye on our Facebook page and Calling Oakley for the latest news of our great, weekly offers and our Half Price Days.**

**We welcome donations – please bring them into the shop. If you have large items, please discuss with staff before unloading your car!**

**CASH ONLY, NO CARDS**



**Oakley Scout Group  
Jumble Sale**

**Saturday 29th March**

**East Oakley Village Hall (Green Hut)  
Hill Road RG23 7JJ**

**Doors open 1:45pm**

**Entrance fee for adults: 50p**

**Donations accepted at the hall from 10:00am  
on the morning of the sale**



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## Surgery Newsletter

### Batch Prescriptions

**A**t the last Patient Participation Group meeting on 3 February 2025, we had an interesting discussion about Batch Prescribing. Batch prescribing is an alternative way to receive your medications, based on an agreement between you, your GP and your nominated pharmacy. A number of prescriptions are issued by your doctor at the same time, to cover an agreed period of up to one year and are sent electronically to your nominated pharmacy. It is most applicable for patients whose medications are the same each month.

#### How does it work?

When you are due your next supply of medicines, the pharmacy already has the prescription and can dispense each batch to you without the need to contact the surgery. This means that, for the agreed period, you simply have to go to the pharmacy to collect your medication. Some pharmacies ask for you to simply call before you wish to collect your prescription. This allows them to ensure it is ready and waiting for you to collect.

If Batch prescriptions sound right for you, when you next request a prescription you can request to change to Batch prescriptions in the comments box. Your GP will assess whether you are suitable for batch prescribing and a member of the team will contact you to let you know the outcome.

#### What if I want to change pharmacy?

You can choose to change your nominated pharmacy at any point during your Batch prescription. Simply ask your new pharmacy to register you and they can access any remaining prescriptions that have not yet been dispensed.

#### What if I leave the surgery?

If you leave the surgery, we are obligated to cancel any remaining prescriptions that we have issued and you will need to arrange a new supply of medication to be given to you by your new surgery, so please give yourself time to arrange this.

#### What if I am on holiday?

If you are going on holiday and will run out of medication whilst away, your pharmacy can access your next prescription early after a discussion with you.

#### What happens at the end of the batches?

Your pharmacy will let you know they have issued you your last prescription. At this point you will need

a review to assess whether you are suitable to continue with batch prescribing. The surgery will contact you if you need to attend an appointment for a review.

#### What if I don't attend for a review?

If you choose not to attend for a review, you will be automatically classed as unsuitable to continue with batch prescribing, as it has not been possible to assess your stability on your medications.

#### What if there have been changes that may affect my medication?

Each time you collect your next supply of medicines from the pharmacy, the pharmacist will ask you a selection of questions to ensure that your medications remain current and suitable. If you know or feel that there is a reason why your medicines may need reviewing, e.g. you have been in hospital or you have started taking additional over-the-counter medicines, please let your pharmacist know.

### Making the Most of Digital Systems: A Guide for Patients

We have been updating our Web Site to incorporate a range of improvements. The updated site is due to go live on 10 March 2025. Please message the practice if you wish to make any additional suggestions.

Please see the second part of our Update on all things digital. (*Editor's Note: first part appeared in February Link, page 8*)

#### 4. Remote Consultations

Video and telephone appointments allow you to speak to healthcare professionals from home. These consultations are convenient, save time, and can be ideal for non-urgent health concerns. Ensure you have a stable internet connection and a private space for the appointment as well as making sure that you have kept us up to date with your mobile telephone number.

#### 5. Staying Informed and Educated

There are many resources to help understand digital resources, such as:

- Health advice libraries with trusted information about symptoms and conditions including the NHS Health A-Z tool at: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/>
- Tools to track your health metrics, such as blood pressure. Our web site offers a range of web forms that patients can complete. These are available 24/7 and then will be uploaded to your medical record by our Administrative Team during working hours. Each of our surgeries has a Blood Pressure machine in the waiting room area.
- Links to Apps available via Smart Watches.
- The NHS App is the most used UK healthcare



# Health Matters



app and can be downloaded at: [nhs.uk/nhs-app/](https://nhs.uk/nhs-app/)  
The final part of the digital systems guide will be included next month

*Brian Elkins*

## Coeliac UK North Hampshire Group

### Events: Longdog Brewery Trip

**L**ongdog Brewery in Basingstoke makes a number of beers which are gluten free. We are hoping to arrange a guided tour of the brewery on a Saturday morning in spring but need to have at least twenty people. If you are interested in

participating, please contact us at [northhampshire@coeliac.org.uk](mailto:northhampshire@coeliac.org.uk)

Next group meeting Wednesday 26 March in Waitrose cafe in Basingstoke between 10:30 am and 12 pm.

**Contacts:** To contact the Local North Hants Group, please email [northhampshire@coeliac.org.uk](mailto:northhampshire@coeliac.org.uk)

Join our Facebook page Coeliac UK North Hampshire Local Group, or see our events on the North Hampshire Coeliac UK website page [www.coeliac.org.uk/local-groups/north-hampshire](http://www.coeliac.org.uk/local-groups/north-hampshire)

*Dave West*

# Pause For Thought



**D**o you or have you enjoyed a commute to work? Many people hop aboard a train, bus or into their car most mornings to head off to work. Not all, as people work from home or really close to it, but many commute some distance to work. I head into town every Monday and Friday but, other than that, there isn't a commute and even then, it's a mere 20 minutes.

Today, however, was different, I climbed aboard a train to Waterloo to join the masses heading up to London. Some for work, some for pleasure but, as always, people everywhere: there was plenty of hustle and bustle.

It caused me to pause (in my head) because I was walking briskly so as not to be later than I already was for my meeting. For me, when I get off the train, it's a bolt to the gate, then a dash through the station, down the stairs, onto the pavement, to the nearest crossing to hopefully catch it with the little green man flashing rather than the red one. On this occasion it had just turned, I chanced it a bit, only to see a car coming right through, at that point, I knew I had to pause.

So often in life the hustle and bustle take over. Think of the Christmas season, that's the time of year when you might expect the most scurrying about but, for many, it's much more than just mid- December to the 25th. The pace of life is quick one day and faster the next, I know I sometimes must purposely pause.

That looks different for everyone: for me it's the 5 -10 minutes when I get in the door to sit in the chair, have a cup of coffee or water, look at the news or watch a few sports highlights. For others it might be

putting earbuds in for a song or two, or pulling out the book you've been working on, or knitting, crocheting, etc...

We all have ways of pausing and winding down a bit, if only for a short break before it's back to it, whatever it may be at that point. Remember I started with a commute.

Today I realised that the commute wasn't all bad. I found solace with the opportunity to get back on the train. This was, of course, after a meeting, a couple of conversations and working my way back to the station, through the crowds, searching for the right platform, dodging passersby the whole time. But, getting on, getting my coffee in the right spot, nibbling my almond croissant while listening to a song on my mobile. That was a space to pause.

Where and when is your space to pause, where and when do you find that you need to listen, think, draw, read, sing or whatever may be bring you to that restful spot? It varies for every person. Can I encourage you today, possibly now while you finish reading this article, to take stock of your life's situation. You might find that you already have that time or place, or you might realise that you need to find that time or place. I'm going to leave a Bible verse with you as encouragement.

From the book of Mark where Jesus was speaking with his friends 'Then, because so many people were coming and going that they did not even have a chance to eat, he said to them, "Come with me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest".

May you find space to pause, reflect and rest.

*Earl Robinson*







## Make 2025 the Year of Giving Back with Age Concern Hampshire

Age Concern Hampshire is seeking more compassionate individuals to volunteer and support older people across the county. As the ageing population continues to grow, the charity's work is more important than ever, and additional volunteers are needed to make a meaningful impact in the community. As an independent charity, they are committed to improving the lives of older people through specialist care at their Care and Wellbeing Centres and vital services that promote independence, playing a key role in enhancing the quality of life for older individuals, their carers, and families.

Volunteering with Age Concern Hampshire offers more than just an opportunity to give time, it provides a chance to build meaningful connections and ensure that older people feel valued and supported. Whether it's an hour a week or more, each contribution can help provide companionship, practical support, and a lifeline to those who need it most.

To address the increasing demands of Hampshire's ageing population, volunteers are sought for a range of roles, including:

- Supporting Care and Wellbeing Centres, which offer activities, social interaction, and day care services.
- Helping to run social groups in areas like Basingstoke and the New Forest, creating community and connection among older residents.
- Assisting with initiatives like the Information Service providing essential guidance and resources.
- Offering practical support with form-filling, helping older people access benefits and services.
- Reception support for our Foot Care Clinics, which

provide toenail cutting to help maintain health and mobility.

- Administrative support across our services, to ensure smooth and efficient operations.
- Support on rehabilitation wards in Community Hospitals in Alton, Gosport and Petersfield.

If you would like to make a difference and be part of this meaningful journey, please contact Age Concern Hampshire at 01962 868545 to learn more about volunteering opportunities or visit their website: [ageconcernhampshire.org.uk/volunteer-hampshire/give-time-by-volunteering/](http://ageconcernhampshire.org.uk/volunteer-hampshire/give-time-by-volunteering/) Sarah Jacobs, Marketing Manager, [marketing@ageconcernhampshire.org.uk](mailto:marketing@ageconcernhampshire.org.uk)



*In 2025 it will be 250 years since JANE AUSTEN was born in Steventon, the Hampshire village where she lived for a large part of her life.*

*Please join us to celebrate our very own national treasure.*

**Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> June 6pm St Nicholas Church, Steventon RG25 3BE**

Jane Austen's Words and Music

Chamber concert with wine and canapés

Michael Kenning, Paul Wright and Astri Strings and wind

**Friday 4<sup>th</sup> - Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> July and Friday 11<sup>th</sup> - Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> July 10am - 4pm**

Steventon Village Hall RG25 3BD

Jane Austen in North Hampshire

A Historical Exhibition

**Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> July 10am - 4pm Pump Field, Steventon RG25 3BD**

Jane Austen's Country Fair

on the site of Jane Austen's birthplace

**Friday 11<sup>th</sup> - Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> July 10am - 4pm**

St Nicholas Church, Steventon, RG25 3BE

Flower Festival and Art Exhibition

by Steventon artists

**Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> July 6pm St Nicholas Church, Steventon, RG25 3BE**

Choral Evensong and refreshments

to conclude our Festivities

**Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> December St Nicholas Church, Steventon, RG25 3BE**

Thanksgiving Service for Jane Austen

on her 250<sup>th</sup> birthday.





## World Day of Prayer (A Women Led, Global, Ecumenical Movement)

Friday 7 March 2025

10:30 am to 11:30 am

I Made You Wonderful

Everyone is Welcome.

World Day of Prayer (WDP) is an international, inter-church, Christian prayer movement which enables us to hear the thoughts of women from all parts of the world: their hopes, concerns and prayers. Preparation takes many years and goes through many stages. This year, here in Oakley, we are holding the service at The Methodist Church by the pond.

Everyone is welcome.

Every year, a different focus country is chosen. This year it is The Cook Islands, a faraway tiny country made up of a group of 15 islands in the Pacific Ocean. Cook Islanders are proud of their unique and special culture. We rejoice this year that we have the opportunity to celebrate these vibrant islands and their people and reflect on their lives.

The theme of this year's service is "I made you wonderful" taken from Psalm 139 vs. 1-18. The service reflects on this and invites us all to recognise that God created each one of us with great care and attention. We are all unique and special and should cherish both ourselves and each other. This is a wonderful and important message to share and we must not forget it.

The World Day of Prayer is celebrated in over 170 countries. It begins in Samoa, and a wave of prayer in native languages travels throughout the world – through Oceania, Asia, Africa, the Middle East and North and South America before finishing in American Samoa some 39 hours later.

WDP is not a fundraising organisation but the funds collected at the annual service are nonetheless important for the movement and for the many grants awarded each year to Registered Christian Charities. See [www.wwdp.org.uk](http://www.wwdp.org.uk).

Here is when and where this year's World Day of Prayer service will take place in Oakley:

THE WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

International and Interdenominational

Friday 7 March 2025

At The Methodist Church

By The Pond, Oakley

10:30 am to 11:30 am

THEME:- "I MADE YOU WONDERFUL"

A Service prepared by Christian women from The Cook Islands

There will be refreshments after the Service

For further information about the service in Oakley contact Lorna on 01256 781739.

## Oakley

# Methodist Church

Services at 10:30 am

March 2	Sarah Whithorn
March 9	Nick Klingaman
March 16	Jenny Dowding
March 23	local arrangements
March 30	Peter Frank

COFFEE MORNINGS Tuesdays March 11 & 25  
10:30 am to 12 noon

£1



The Chapel by the Pond

[www.bhbcircuit.org.uk/churches/oakley.html](http://www.bhbcircuit.org.uk/churches/oakley.html)

### Methodist Church coffee morning

All welcome at the Methodist Church coffee morning on Tuesday 11 March and 25 March from 10:30 to noon. £1 for a bottomless cup of tea or coffee and biscuits. Come and meet old friends and new. The charity for the year from September 2024 is St Michael's Hospice. We look forward to welcoming the Woodland well-being walkers at the end of their walk.

### St Leonard's Church Building Project

You are invited to an open day for the St Leonard's Church building project on Wednesday 12 March at St Leonard's Church.

As you may know, we've been working on bringing the St Leonard's Church building up to date with 21<sup>st</sup> century expectations for some time. The aim of the project is to address the issues of light, heat, power, and access whilst also adding toilets, a servery and a small gathering area in an extension to the west. The proposed changes will enable us to keep the church building open during the day and to enable it to be available for community events.

We are in the process of preparing a planning



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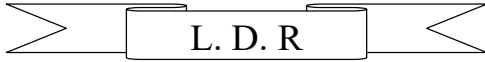
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application after extensive consultation with heritage bodies, the local conservation officer and the local planning department. We would like to invite you to see the plans and discuss them with the project team. We will exhibit the plans on Wednesday 12 March in St Leonard's church and be on hand for three sessions - from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm in the morning; from 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm in the afternoon; and then from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm in the evening.

We look forward to meeting with you on 12 March.

*The St Leonard's Church For Our Time Project Team*



## Oakley Scout Group

Why should you join scouts? We take part in many fun activities in and around the community. We take part in many camps involving great adventures that get the adrenaline going, including sailing and rock climbing.



It's an opportunity to learn incredible life skills that you will not find anywhere else. Scouts isn't just fire lighting and campfires (although they are very enjoyable) we also explore the world, learning skills not just for camping but for our future. Join today and experience interesting fun and never be disappointed.

*By Jake, Noah and Noah*

## What is Scouts?

Scouts is a safe, fun and kind place to learn and enjoy. Scouts was founded by Lord Baden-Powell in 1907.

How old do you have to be to go to Scouts?

- Scouts - 10.5 to 14 years old
- Cubs - 8 to 10.5 years old
- Beavers - 6 to 8 years old
- Squirrels - 4 to 6 years old

## Why should you join Scouts?

Scouts is fun. But what do you do?

You start off by saluting the flag then getting into activities to earn badges. We do cooking, photography and much more. We also play lots of games. Some of the games we have played are: tea bag (a big tea bag is spun and you jump over it and attempt to get hit by it.), Chinese hand ball and Colditz (the lights are turned off and you try to get to the end without the person spotting you with the torch).

## Information

So, Scouts is cool, but how do you get involved?

You can find the Scouts website at [scouts.org.uk](http://scouts.org.uk) and look for your Scout group today. We hope to see you at Scouts.

*Andrew, age 10*

For more details on joining the Oakley Scout Group, please email [oakley@bwds.org.uk](mailto:oakley@bwds.org.uk)

## News from Cranbourne



We've had another busy few weeks at Cranbourne, filled with school trips, our annual Cluster Conference and Spring Concert.

Our Year 8 Young Interpreters delivered a workshop session at Kings Furlong Junior School, aiming to inspire and motivate pupils with

team building activities and stimulation games. At the end of the session they reflected on their origins and took pride in sharing their diverse backgrounds and languages with each other.

Year 10 have begun to think about their prospects for life after Cranbourne, as they prepare for their upcoming work experience placements in April. They attended the 'Get Inspired' event hosted by EBP South, where local businesses, training providers and educational institutions shared insight into their sectors and discussed potential job opportunities.

We hosted our annual Cluster Conference with this year's theme being 'Courageous Advocacy'. Students were encouraged to think about the small actions they can take each day that will make a big difference and participated in activities such as community litter picks, bullying roleplays and poetry designed to develop their knowledge, skills and confidence to become courageous advocates for change.

The highlight of the day was taking on the problem-solving obstacle course, where they were challenged to guide their blindfolded teammate through the various obstacles in the quickest time possible. The activity relied on students being able to successfully communicate with each other,



considering a different perspective to their own and finding creative solutions.

Our first Spring Concert took place on Wednesday 12 February, which saw students take to the Cranbourne stage for a night of extraordinary talent. The audience were treated to a selection of performances from a variety of musicals, led by our Performing Arts Department. The confidence and showmanship shown by our students was exceptional and it was certainly a night to remember!



Artistic flairs were then shown off with the most flattering portraits of the children and their teachers! The month was rounded up by learning about healthy eating and teeth cleaning.



## Cuckoo Meadow Pre-School

It has felt like a jam-packed term already at Cuckoo Meadow!



The children got stuck into the Big Garden Birdwatch and made some bird feeders along with binoculars to watch the birds dig in! We then celebrated the Chinese Lunar New Year by creating a beautiful snake and trying some noodles with chopsticks.







Easter will be here before we know it and we are holding a raffle to win luxury hampers – please contact us to buy tickets and good luck!

*Georgia Hawken*

*Cuckoo Meadow Pre-School Secretary*

**About Cuckoo Meadow Pre-School:** *We are a small and friendly pre-school located in the Rathbone Pavilion of North Waltham. The children who attend come from many areas including Oakley, Dummer, Hatch Warren, Kempshott and Beggarwood. They all agree that the location and wonderful, caring staff mean it is more than worth the short journey. To find out more, please contact Jo or Fiona on 01256 398 172.*

## Hello from St Leonard's Pre-School

What is your favourite book? Do you like fiction or non-fiction? At preschool we are going to start March with book week and dressing up as our favourite book character. The children will be sharing their favourite books from home and from the setting. We will be making a preschool photo book for the children to recall and talk about the week.



Every day we will have a focus book to do activities from e.g. *We're Going on a Bear Hunt*. We will be playing hide and seek with a bear inside and outside using the actions from the book.

Towards the end of March, we will be celebrating mums, and the children will be making presents for their mum. They will share what makes their mum special. The children will be drawing pictures of their mum for a Mother's Day card.

If you would like to know more about the preschool, please contact us on 07772 378265 or email [preschool@oww.church](mailto:preschool@oww.church), or look at our website [stleonards-preschool.co.uk](http://stleonards-preschool.co.uk).

We look forward to hearing from you,

*Caroline Edwards, Manager*

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# Feature

## Hampshire Harmony at St Leonard's Centre

Every year Hampshire Harmony holds a training day in February. This is a fun and informative day, where we get together to learn new singing techniques and improve on our repertoire.

This year we met at Saint Leonard's Hall Oakley, a lovely warm hall in which to enjoy our own vocal warm-ups. Just the right size for us and well looked after, with all the facilities we require. Of course there was plenty of fun, good food and much learning which will pay off as we move forward.

Thanks to the team at St Leonard's.

We are an upper voice choir, always seeking a high standard. We give several concerts a year. The first concert in 2025 was on March 1 at the Anvil, The Mayor's Charity Spring Concert, which marked 250 years since Jane Austen's birth and 80 years since VE Day. We were singing as part of the Basingstoke Festival of Choirs.

We have been invited to sing at the Anvil again on May 18, alongside the Youth choirs and orchestras of Basingstoke.

Our own Summer Concert takes place on July 12 at Costello School and will be an afternoon of fun and song. Please put the dates in your diaries and book

tickets via the Anvil or our website

If you would like to join a hard-working but fun-loving upper voice choir with our excellent MD Clare F Oliver, please visit our website [hampshireharmony.org](http://hampshireharmony.org) and apply to visit a



rehearsal. We meet on Monday evenings at 7:30 pm in the Carnival Hall, Council Rd, Basingstoke RG21 3DH.

We look forward to welcoming you either as a recruit or as part of our audience. See you there!

*Gill Barlin*





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# Conservation



## Oakley Woodlands Group

February saw the woods start to wake up, with the snowdrops pushing their heads above ground. We only have one patch of snowdrops in St John's Copse and none at all in Cowdown Copse. Did you know that a lover of snowdrops is a galanthophile, from the Latin name for



more formally known as *fuligo septica*. It is not often seen in our woods, only three or four times in the last decade. It is found on dead wood in contact with the soil. The mould is busy helping to return the tree back to the soil ready to



these little white flowers.

Snowdrops were not the only splash of colour. The bright yellow of a patch of dog's vomit could be found just a few metres away. Nothing to do with nauseous canines, this is a bright yellow slime mould

feed new growth, maybe even feeding those little white gems close by.

The Woodlands Group has one month left of coppicing, and our work party dates are shown below. Don't forget this is also the time to order your bean poles and peasticks, so please contact us by e-mail, or give Alan French a call on 07501 140401 to order, or come and see us in St John's Copse during one of our work parties. Just look for the yellow warning signs.

Work party dates for March: Wednesday 5 and 19, and Saturday 8 and 22. All in St John's Copse from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm. Email: [oakleywoodlands@gmail.com](mailto:oakleywoodlands@gmail.com)

*Alan Merry*

## +Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust Turning over stones, one turnstone at a time

Turnstones are fascinating shorebirds which are easily recognisable due to their distinctive behaviour and striking plumage. The scientific name of the bird, *Arenaria interpres*, refers to its unique habit of 'turning' over stones and debris in search of food so is, of course, where the name 'turnstone' originates.

During the winter months, these medium-sized waders are a common sight along the shores of Hampshire, particularly in places like Langstone Harbour, the Solent, and along the Isle of Wight's coast.

Despite weighing only around 100g, the turnstone is a remarkable migrant, travelling incredible distances during its seasonal migration. Originating from breeding grounds in northern regions such as Lapland, Greenland, and even as far as Canada, these waders make long, arduous journeys - sometimes covering up to 1,700 miles - to reach their wintering sites.



# Conservation



*Turnstone: Photo by Tom Marshall*

The UK serves as a crucial stopover on their migratory route, a pitstop to rest and refuel before continuing their journey further south to Africa.

These passage migrants rely on the UK's coastal habitats to

sustain them during this critical phase of their migration. Although a migrant to the UK, it can also be seen all year-round as different populations arrive throughout the seasons.

The birds seek out the rocky shorelines, tidal mudflats, and sandy beaches where they feed primarily on small invertebrates, crustaceans, and molluscs, often flipping over small rocks and shells with their strong bills to uncover hidden prey.

The turnstones striking plumage changes with the seasons. In summer, their feathers are rich with orange, black, and white tones, making them particularly noticeable against the backdrop of coastal scenery. In winter, their plumage becomes more muted, offering them better camouflage among the pebbles and rocks they scavenge.

Their long-distance migration is a testament to the turnstone's resilience and adaptability. The birds offer a powerful reminder of the interconnectedness of global ecosystems and the importance of preserving coastal habitats for migratory species.

Conservation efforts are essential to protecting their habitats and ensuring that future generations will continue to enjoy the sight of these fascinating birds in the wild.

Find out more information about the turnstone on the Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust website: [hiwwt.org.uk/wildlife-explorer/birds/wading-birds/turnstone](http://hiwwt.org.uk/wildlife-explorer/birds/wading-birds/turnstone)

## Exciting News!

**N**ominations are now open for the Destination Basingstoke A Place to be Proud of Awards 2025! Since 2003,

these awards have celebrated and honoured countless individuals, businesses, organisations, and projects. This year, Tomato Energy is thrilled to sponsor the Green Community Champions Award once again!

As the local Community Manager, I am delighted to share that the Green Community Champion Award perfectly aligns with Tomato Energy's mission to make Basingstoke a greener and more sustainable place to live and work. We are eager to see how individuals and businesses across the borough are rising to the challenge.

Do you know someone who has made a significant impact on Basingstoke's sustainability and environment? Perhaps you or someone you know has implemented a project, activity or initiative making our community greener and cleaner, below are a selection of examples:

- **Green Spaces:** Promoting and maintaining parks, gardens, and urban green areas.
- **Nature Conservation:** Protecting wildlife habitats and biodiversity.
- **Environmental Education:** Raising awareness and educating the community about environmental issues.
- **Sustainable Technology:** Innovating and implementing eco-friendly technologies.
- **Waste Reduction:** Encouraging recycling, upcycling, composting, and reducing waste.
- **Renewable Energy:** Advocating for and using renewable energy sources like solar and wind power.
- **Water Conservation:** Promoting efficient water use and protecting water resources.
- **Sustainable Transportation:** Encouraging the use of public transport, cycling, and electric vehicles.
- **Community Gardening:** Supporting local food production through community gardens.
- **Climate Action:** Initiatives aimed at reducing carbon footprints and combating climate change.

Whether you're an individual, community group, school, organisation, business, parish council or other entity, we're inviting everyone to participate.

Learn more about the categories: [destinationbasingstoke.co.uk/a-place-to-be-proud-of/categories-2/](http://destinationbasingstoke.co.uk/a-place-to-be-proud-of/categories-2/)

Entry Form: [destinationbasingstoke.co.uk/a-place-to-be-proud-2025-entry-form/](http://destinationbasingstoke.co.uk/a-place-to-be-proud-2025-entry-form/)

**Deadline: Friday, 14 March** – Don't miss out! Nominate your Green Community Champion today and help celebrate the Green Heroes of Basingstoke and Deane!

*Zoe McLaren, Community Engagement Manager*



Graham Brown

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# Ladies Societies



## Oakley Afternoon WI

The speaker for the January meeting of Oakley Afternoon WI was Mr Steve Herra. His talk was entitled 'Coco Chanel – her life, loves and lies.' We heard about her fascinating life including how she lied about her very humble upbringing, her many loves and about the fortune she amassed from her fashion and perfume empire.

It was interesting to hear that there are 80 ingredients in Chanel No 5 perfume and the simple cube design of the bottle was designed to attract the eye. Other interesting facts are that she joined war intelligence and became a secret agent. Post-war she was arrested for collaborating with the Nazis however Winston Churchill was instrumental in her release. We were also told that Jackie Kennedy was wearing a Chanel suit when President Kennedy was assassinated.

Janet, our President, gave a vote of thanks. Janet also reminded us that the March meeting will be one week later than normal on 24 March due to work being carried out on the hall.

Birthday flowers were presented to Tricia and Janet, and this was followed by the monthly raffle. Members were also asked to vote on the various national resolutions.

We hold a coffee morning on the last Monday of the month at the Barley Mow in Oakley and our meetings are on the third Monday of the month at East Oakley Village Hall {The Green Hut} at 1:30 pm, the exception being the March meeting which is on 24 March.

Guests are very welcome to come along to these two events and will be given a warm welcome. Please contact Janet on 01256 782734

*Janie Vickers*

## Oakley and Deane WI

St Michael's Hospice sent Rachael, a Volunteer Community Ambassador, to update us on the charity. There are 500 active volunteers, aged 14 to 96, who do various jobs like gardening, flower arranging, and administration on a regular or occasional basis. There are 11 beds, but home palliative care with nurses working from 8 am to 8 pm has increased greatly over the years. At the Hospice there are many appointments for therapies, pain management, bereavement support and classes.

Only 16% of the running cost of over £6 million comes from the government each year. It means it is necessary to raise £15,000 a day. Money comes from legacies, charity shops, regular giving and events like walks and the Memory Tree. Of course they brought a tin with them!

The Spring Council Meeting in March has been moved from Winchester to Portsmouth Guildhall so there are more tickets available to hear Esme Young, Dr Mark Aldridge, and Nelly Ghaffer.

A few members had enjoyed the Hart Players performing The Rats which they had taken to Edinburgh.

The next meeting on Tuesday, 11 March at 7:30 pm at Oakley Village Hall will be a talk about the Law by Rosemarie Tiffen. All welcome. It will soon be the start of a new year so a good time to join. Coffee Morning at the Beach Arms on Tuesday, 25 March.

[Facebook.com/oakleyanddeaneWI](https://www.facebook.com/oakleyanddeaneWI)

*Jean Freeman*

## SPRING HAS COME



A floral demonstration by Stephanie Cornell one of NAFAS' National Demonstrators. Steph will show us her arrangements with a Spring theme.

Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> April 2025 - Time 1.30 to 4.30 pm

Ticket price £16.00

Andover Road Village Hall  
Station Road, Oakley RG23

Afternoon includes a flower demonstration, cream tea and there will be a free raffle ticket for the arrangements that Stephanie makes

This event will be in support of Oakley Afternoon WI

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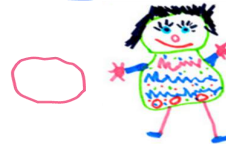
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## Basingstoke Choral Society

Basingstoke Choral Society is delighted to present their spring concert:

When: Sunday 30 March

Concert starts 7:30 pm

Where: Anvil Theatre - Basingstoke

Conductor: David Gibson

Accompanied by professional orchestra and soloists.

### Programme:

Ralph Vaughan Williams, *A Sea Symphony* and *Toward the Unknown Region*.

Benjamin Britten: *Four Sea Interludes* from *Peter Grimes*.

To book: [anvilarts.org.uk](http://anvilarts.org.uk)

Our programme this spring is inspired by the beauty and grandeur of the sea and showcases two major British composers.

Vaughan Williams was greatly inspired by the poetry of American writer Walt Whitman, whose verses from *Leaves of Grass* form the text of both *A Sea Symphony* and the shorter choral work *Toward the Unknown Region*. Whitman's expansive and humanistic vision of the sea, a metaphor for both the natural world and the spiritual journey of mankind, appealed strongly to Vaughan Williams.

The symphony captures the grandeur, mystery, and awe of the ocean, while at the same time representing human experience and exploration. It is remarkable as one of the earliest major choral

symphonies in the English repertoire. Composed between 1903 and 1909 it premiered at the Leeds Festival in 1910 with Vaughan Williams himself conducting. Each of the two works is a powerful testament to Vaughan Williams' ability to blend poetry and music into a unified stirring experience.

Benjamin Britten's 'Four Sea Interludes' extract from his 1945 opera 'Peter Grimes' are some of the most evocative orchestral music in the 20th century classical repertoire. In the opera the interludes serve as atmospheric transitions between each scene, but are frequently performed, as in our concert as a standalone suite. The Suite remains one of Britten's most popular orchestral works and is a powerful example of his ability to fuse musical drama and atmospheric depiction. All three works in the concert regularly captivate audiences with their rich imagery and emotional depth, inviting listeners to travel on a profound and majestic journey across the seas of the world and the human soul.

We are delighted to be joined once again by our friends from Croydon Philharmonic Choir, as well as a professional orchestra and soloists, making this a concert not to be missed, so join us on our seaward travels.

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Why does Charles II keep popping out of his coffin, and which of his ladies preferred her parrot to the King's attentions? Which stately home has a ghostly dog who shows you to your room and then walks through the wall? Why was Henry V's queen not buried for more than 200 years?

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She has a phenomenal memory for quirky and unusual facts, and her talks are funny, individual, and presented in a conversational way. Her enthusiasm is contagious and this promises to be a very entertaining meeting.

Join us for this talk on  
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**St Mary's Hall, Overton**  
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ACCA



# Local News



## Overton Choral Society

**O**ur first performance of 2025 is on March 1 in The Anvil at the Mayors Charity Concert. This is in conjunction with Basingstoke Festival of Choirs and there are still some tickets for sale so don't miss out on this fund-raising concert for Basingstoke based Charities.

Then we will continue rehearsing for the Hampshire Choral Festival on Sunday 11 May in The Anvil. We will be singing Verdi Requiem and Derek Beck's The Life of Universal Song, a premiere performance.

John Sutton is conducting the seven Choirs and this will be his final performance. John and Jenny Sutton have been huge supporters of local Hospices and there will be a bucket collection at the end. St Michael's will be one of the beneficiaries. This promises to be an excellent concert of the highest standard with superb soloists, please don't miss it.

*Lyn Hardy, Chair, overtonchoralsoc@gmail.com*

## Probus hears about War Time Commemorative Sign Investigated

**C**hris Perkins MVO, a member of the Probus Club of Basingstoke and retired RAF Squadron Leader, came across a memorial dedicated to Spitfire pilot Sgt Bernard Bryn Goodall on a grass verge close to the church in Weston Patrick, south of Basingstoke. Goodall, from New Zealand, crashed and was killed outright in August 1942.

Investigations by Chris Perkins established that this aviator had been born near Auckland, from family stock who had emigrated from Staffordshire in the 1860s. Goodall enlisted in the Royal New Zealand Air Force in January 1940. Following initial flight training this was supplemented in Canada under the Empire Training Scheme, earning his 'Wings' in November 1941.

Sgt Goodall NZ/411981 RNZAF arrived at the Personnel Reception Centre, Bournemouth on 19 December and on 10 February 1942 was posted to No 58 Operational Training Unit at Grangemouth near Edinburgh where he completed training on Supermarine Spitfires. He then joined No 41 Squadron, partaking in various patrols and missions across the UK.

On the day of his crash, Saturday 15 August 1942, Goodall's Spitfire Mk Vb, P8607, Code sign EB-C, was en-route from RAF Debden in Essex to RAF Tangmere near Chichester in Sussex. No 41 Squadron was being assembled there in preparation for the ill-

-fated Dieppe raid that took place four days later.

With low level cloud layer, he went off course and crashed at Blounce Farm with the plane being part buried it caught fire immediately. The Board of Inquiry attributed the crash to instrument failure and poor weather conditions.

He logged 312 hours as a pilot and flew 41 operational flights, including offensive and reconnaissance missions. He was buried with full military honours at Brookwood Military Cemetery, near Woking in Surrey. His sacrifice exemplifies the contributions of Commonwealth citizens during WWII. Bernard Bryn Goodall was 23 years old. See [www.probusbasingstoke.club](http://www.probusbasingstoke.club)

*Paul Flint*

## Basingstoke - Old Basing u3a - reduced Membership Fee



**B**asingstoke - Old Basing u3a are offering a reduced membership fee of £20 covering March to end of September. If you are retired or semi-retired and are



## Hampshire Choral Festival

**Sunday 11th May 2025**  
The Anvil, Basingstoke, 7 pm

# VERDI REQUIEM

and  
Derek Beck *The Life of Universal Song*  
(First performance)

Botley Choral Society  
Compton & Shawford Festival Choir  
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Tickets £30, £25, £20 (all include a £4 booking fee)  
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RCN 295128

[www.hcfonline.org.uk](http://www.hcfonline.org.uk)

# Local News



looking for something interesting to fill some of your time and occupy your brain, then the local u3a group is for you.



The u3a is a thriving, lively group of over 1000 members doing all sorts of activities in over 80 different interest groups. Some of these groups are energetic and sporty, while others more sedate doing things like tabletop games, talks and quizzes. Members can learn a new skill or perhaps revisit an interest you had years ago. The group is run by members for its members and if you have a passion for something not on offer, then you can start your own inspiring group. It is a great opportunity to meet like-minded people.

In April the u3a are starting a brand-new Health & Wellbeing Group. This will bring informative presentations from healthcare professionals and charity groups to help members proactively manage their health.

More information about the u3a can be found on their website [basingstokeu3a.org](http://basingstokeu3a.org) or Google Basingstoke Old Basing u3a.

## Whitchurch Silk Mill News

### More Recognition for Our Heritage Weaving Manager

We are thrilled to announce that Shannon Bye, our Heritage Weaving Manager, has been chosen as one of Drapers' 2025 '30 Under 30'. This prestigious list celebrates young professionals making significant contributions to the fashion retail sector. Shannon's recognition highlights her skills and dedication to preserving heritage crafts at the Mill. You can hear Shannon's thoughts on YouTube at [youtube.com/shorts/hOA-ecgpyfM](https://youtube.com/shorts/hOA-ecgpyfM).

### What Is Our Mill Team Doing?

Shannon is weaving a customer order, Be is hand-twisting the next ribbon warp, and Charlotte is hand-weaving on the top floor. Jess recently presented at the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Museums Forum Annual Conference about our collaboration with Jane Austen House.

## Limited Edition Handwoven Scarves

Our weavers have produced a beautiful collection of handwoven 100% spun silk scarves, available in our Mill shop and online. Each scarf, woven in a honeycomb structure, is unique and takes up to twenty hours to produce.

### Upcoming Events

#### A Stitch in Time: How to Care for Textile Treasures

11 March, 7 pm to 8:30 pm

Sarah Howard, a textile conservator, will discuss textile preservation. Tickets are £15 per person and must be booked in advance.

#### Beginners' Braiding Workshop

15 March, 10:45 am to 12:45 pm

Learn Japanese kumihimo techniques to create braids. Cost is £35 per person, including materials.

#### Riches to Ribbons Exhibition

15 March – 20 July

Explore the history of silk ribbon weaving and see our ribbon collection celebrating Jane Austen's 250th anniversary. Included in the Mill admission fee.

Tickets for our events are available from the Mill Shop or our website. For more details, visit [whitchurchsilkmill.org.uk](http://whitchurchsilkmill.org.uk) or contact us at [info@whitchurchsilkmill.org.uk](mailto:info@whitchurchsilkmill.org.uk). Follow us on Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram, or subscribe to our email newsletter.

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at  
The Royal British Legion, Crown Lane, Old Basing RG24 7DN  
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19:30 for a 20:00 start  
Ticket Price £12.50  
Available from our website  
[www.basingstokelions.org.uk](http://www.basingstokelions.org.uk)  
or from  
Tony Bamberger, tel: 01256 850254  
Email: [tony.bamberger@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:tony.bamberger@hotmail.co.uk)  
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# Feature



## News From Jolly Olly's Coffee Shop

March! This month always makes me feel ready for the new and thanks to Mary, who toiled away in the Autumn planting bulbs in our outdoor planters; we should soon have a spectacular display of new spring flowers for you to admire as you drink your tea!

### Poppies!

It seems a long time ago now, but customers of Jolly Olly's raised £95.53 in November's Poppy appeal. Thanks to all who donated.

### Chatty Café

Liz will be here from 12 pm to 3 pm, Wednesday 5 March. Everyone is welcome to come along. It's a great way to get to know your neighbours!

### Book Club

Our first Online Book Club has yet to happen but I will update you next month. Look out on our Facebook and Instagram pages for details of our next book. There is also a poster in the shop which provides details.

**Shrove Tuesday** is on 4 March this year. We can

save you the trouble of cooking and let you concentrate on the best bit... the eating! We'll be offering American style pancakes served with maple syrup (and added bacon for those who like it!). Served while stocks last.

### Mother's Day

We have all kinds of gifts for Mother's Day: prints and paintings, hats and scarves, hand-made earrings, locally made chocolate and, of course, vouchers for afternoon tea! Afternoon tea includes: freshly made sandwiches, homemade scones with jam and clotted cream, a selection of cakes and a pot of tea or Americano coffee. Teas are priced at £16 per person. Booking is essential.

We look forward to seeing you soon.

*Best wishes from The Team at Jolly Olly's Coffee Shop, 32 Oakley Lane, Oakley RG23 7JY (Tel 01256 782658)*



# Gardening



## Oakley Gardening Club

At our meeting on 3 February we welcomed Ian Margetts from Summerdown Mint, Malshanger. Ian began his talk by showing us some slides on how they extracted the oils out of the flowers which they grow. Ian then went on to talk about the bygone years and the history of the working compared to how it works today. Ian works an organic farm by having made a 2 foot wide edge around the farm and sowing wild seeds. This brings in the bees, butterflies, insects and wildlife. Ian bought some of his products for us to

buy. It was a very interesting night and we now have some knowledge of the oils we use

which arrive in our shops.

*Diane Green*

*(photo of competition entries above)*



# Free Ads



*All entries should be sent in writing to Maureen Dallaway, by the **10 March 2025** for inclusion in next month's Link. Entries may also be sent by e-mail to [freeads@oakleylink.org.uk](mailto:freeads@oakleylink.org.uk) Please include an address or telephone number.*

Netgear GS108 8-port **Ethernet switch**. Unused, still in original box. £10. Tel. 07969 469543.

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**M & S Mac** as new. Size 14/16 £6. Tel 781776.

**M & S grey coat**. Size 14/16. As new £6. Tel 781776.

# Sport



## Oakley Bowling Club News

Alice Lovett, an Oakley member since 2018 came so close to retaining the National Indoor Champion of Champion's title she won last year. After defeating six times World champion Katherine Rednall in the semi-final, Alice lost



agonisingly 21-20 in the Final. Undeterred, the following weekend, Alice travelled to Arbroath to make her

international debut as she skipped for England in the British Isles international series. What a weekend it was for her as her rink ran up victories of 34-9 over Wales, 38-9 over Ireland and 23-19 over Scotland.

Alice's trip to Scotland meant she was unable to attend our Presentation Dinner held at Test Valley Golf Club. We welcomed, as Guests, Jamie and Sue Colman, as well as the Men's and Women's Presidents of Bowls Hampshire and were joined by friends from as far afield as Portsmouth.

For President Ric Newson it was a memorable

evening as, not only did he collect the Two Wood Singles trophy, but also son Gary, who only joined the Club in 2024, did the coveted double lifting both the Open and Men's Singles titles.



It was a highly convivial evening with excellent food and service and the laughter on the coaches returning to Oakley indicated just how much the evening had been enjoyed. Our social committee has more events planned for us, but soon we shall be back playing outdoor bowls.

Weather permitting, the green will open on 19 April and, for those that might wish to try their hand at our wonderful game, there will be Open Days on 17 and 25 May. Details will be in the next edition of Link but, if you cannot make those dates, just phone Spencer on 01256 780418 or Diane on 01256 781465. Both will be happy to help and more information on the Club can be found by visiting oakleybc.org.uk

*Spenser Kerly*

# Walking



## Oakley Woodland Wellbeing Walks for March

Wellbeing Walks walks are at a moderate pace for approx 1 hour along local woodland and field footpaths. Do come out and enjoy our local countryside, in the friendly company of fellow residents...and enjoy the beginnings of Spring **Start points and dates details listed below:**

- Tuesday, 11 March, 10 am from Village Pond
- Tuesday, 18 March, 10 am from St John's Rd lay-by
- Tuesday, 25 March, 10 am from East Oakley Village Hall [aka The Green Hut]

Methodist Chapel Coffee Morning at end of walk  
*Barbara Robson 07722 957057 / Richard Baxter 07549 021174*



On Wednesday 12th February, 9 walkers completed a five mile walk from Steventon Church. The weather was dry and although the fields were muddy, the walk was enjoyable.

Six walkers had a post walk meal at the Wheatsheaf.

Oakley Ramblers is a friendly and very sociable group, we always welcome new members. Our planned walk dates for March are Wednesday 12th and Sunday 23rd.

Find us on Facebook, or visit our website for more information. [www.oakleyramblers.org](http://www.oakleyramblers.org).

*Corrine Thomas*

# Letters



## Dear editor

Oakley Pharmacy delivery made up prescriptions to a lot of people in the village. Once again the Pill Box van is off the road. I, and I'm sure that other people in the village,

would like to take this opportunity to thank Fay for her outstanding efforts in walking to make deliveries. She never complains and always has a smile and cheery word. I hope that, by the time this is published, she will have a van for her deliveries.

*Tim White*



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<b>Councillors &amp; Politicians</b>	
<b>Member of Parliament, Basingstoke</b>	
Luke Murphy - <a href="mailto:luke.murphy.mp@parliament.uk">luke.murphy.mp@parliament.uk</a>	07946 617981
47 Winchester Street, Basingstoke, RG21 7EF	
<b>Parish Councillors:</b>	
Fred Bullions	
Vaughn Burns	
Dave Condliffe	
Ian Ellison	
Trevor Green	
Amanda Hayman	
Gary McAllister	
Alex Rowley (Chair)	
Linda Wain	
<b>Parish Clerk</b> : Nicola Beere, 1 Station Road, Oakley	
<a href="mailto:clerk@oakleydeane-pc.gov.uk">clerk@oakleydeane-pc.gov.uk</a>	or 07983 500372
<b>Deputy Clerk</b> : Steve Woodley 07951 415229	
<a href="mailto:deputyclerk@oakleydeane-pc.gov.uk">deputyclerk@oakleydeane-pc.gov.uk</a>	
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St Lawrence (Wootton)	
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<b>Website:</b>	<a href="http://www.oakleywithwootton.org.uk">www.oakleywithwootton.org.uk</a>
<b>Church Office:</b> St Leonard's Centre, Rectory Rd, Oakley	
Tel 782724 9:00 am -1:00 pm week-days	
<a href="mailto:office@oww.church">office@oww.church</a>	
Revd Ben Kautzer <a href="mailto:ben@oww.church">ben@oww.church</a>	
01256 420903	
Contacts for Deane:	
Deidre Coles - Warden Tel 781495	
<b>YouTube channel:</b> Search St Leonard's Church Oakley for Church@Home and Kids@Home services.	
<b>Methodist</b>	
Chapel by the pond	
<b>Website:</b>	<a href="https://www.bhbccircuit.org.uk/churches/oakley.html">https://www.bhbccircuit.org.uk/churches/oakley.html</a>
Hill Road adjacent to the village pond in East Oakley	
Revd Claire Simpson	
<a href="mailto:revclaire72@btinternet.com">revclaire72@btinternet.com</a>	
Tel: 01256 323103	
<b>Roman Catholic</b>	
St Joseph's and St Bede's	
<b>Website:</b>	<a href="http://www.stjosephsbasingstoke.org.uk">www.stjosephsbasingstoke.org.uk</a>
171a St Michael's Rd, Basingstoke, RG22 6TY	
Fr Paul Leonard,	
Parish Office -Tel: 323595	
<a href="mailto:office@stjosephsbasingstoke.org.uk">office@stjosephsbasingstoke.org.uk</a>	
<b>Community Church</b>	
<b>Websites:</b>	<a href="http://www.lifespringcommunitychurch.org">www.lifespringcommunitychurch.org</a>
or <a href="http://www.hopebasingstoke.org">www.hopebasingstoke.org</a>	
St. Luke's Hall Overton	
or Sarum Hill Centre, Sarum Hill, Basingstoke	
Contact: John and Wendy Thurston (780135)	
or Paul and Ann Davis (782769)	

<b>Village Shops</b>	
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Village Café, Jolly Olly's Oakley Lane	782658
Village Pharmacy in the Vale	782381

<b>Oakley Scout Group</b>	David Foster-Key (781097)
	<a href="mailto:oakley@bwds.org.uk">oakley@bwds.org.uk</a>
<b>Oakley Girlguiding</b>	Caroline Lloyd
	<a href="mailto:c451loyd@outlook.com">c451loyd@outlook.com</a>

<b>VILLAGE HALLS</b>	
East Oakley Village Hall ("Green Hut") - Hill Road	Booking Secretary 07788 423252 or email: <a href="mailto:booking@oakleygreenhut.co.uk">booking@oakleygreenhut.co.uk</a>
	Website: <a href="http://www.oakleygreenhut.co.uk">www.oakleygreenhut.co.uk</a>
St. John's Centre - St. John's Road	Contact Church Office: 782724
Oakley Village Hall - Andover Road	Contact: 781229
St Leonards Centre - Rectory Road	Contact Church Office: 782724

**NOTE:** If you wish to add an item or correct any entries, please send an email to: [john@oakleylink.org.uk](mailto:john@oakleylink.org.uk) Last amended: 12/11/2024



# What's coming up this season at The Barley Mow

## Tuesday

### Bar snacks deals

From 5pm

3 bar snacks & a drink £20

5 bar snacks & 2 drinks £35

5 bar snacks & a bottle of house wine £47.50

Sharing platter & a bottle of house wine £32



## Wednesday

### Pie and a drink

From 5pm

£17, add a dessert for £5



## Thursday

### Burger & a drink

From 5pm

£15, add a dessert for £5



## Sunday

### Roast & a drink

Post 5pm

£17, add a dessert for £5



Follow us on social to see more of what we've got planned this season.

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